

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

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TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EAGR, US IV

SUBJECT:COOPERATION WITH IVORY COAST IN AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT

REF: ABIDJAN 4496

1. IVORY COAST AGRICULTURAL EXPERTS BOSSO AND LEROUX MET
ON MAY 30 WITH OFFICIALS IN USDA, AID, AND CU/AF. FOLLOW-
ING REPRESENTS HIGHLIGHTS THESE DISCUSSIONS. FULLER MEM
CONS WILL BE POUCHED SHORTLY.

2. IVORIANS DISCUSSED WITH USDA POSSIBILITY THAT USDA
SEND TDY TEAM TO ABIDJAN TO DISCUSS AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
AND EDUCATION, AND TO ADVISE ON THE REORGANIZATION OF THE
ENSA AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM. IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT FRANK
MCKNIGHT,AN EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT IN USDA, ACCOMPANY THE
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TEAM TO ADVISE ON COMMODITY SUPPORT PROGRAMS, ASPECTS OF

MARKETING, AND ORGANIZATION OF IVORY COAST MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE. BOSSO AND LEROUX SAID THEY WOULD DISCUSS SUGGESTION WITH MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, SAWADOGO, BY TELEPHONE, AND THAT MINISTER WOULD CONTACT AMBASSADOR SMITH. TIMING FOR PROPOSED USDA TEAM VISIT COULD BE EITHER MID-JULY OR AFTER IVORY COAST ELECTIONS IN SEPTEMBER. (FYI. DURING DISCUSSIONS IN USDA, LOGAN

EARNED THAT LEROUX HAS ORDERED 60 TONS SOYA SEEDS FOR IMMEDIATE SHIPMENT FROM NEW YORK TO ABIDJAN. END FYI).

3. LEROUX AND BOSSO MET WITH CU/AF REPS ON MAY 30 TO EXPLORE RESOURCES WHICH MIGHT BE AVAILABLE TO ENSA. DEPTOFFS EXPLAINED FOLLOWING PROGRAMS: (A) POSSIBLE FULBRIGHT PROFESSOR TO ENSA; (B) ENSA PROFESSORS OBTAINING PH.DS AT U.S. UNIVERSITIES; (C) 3-MONTH FACULTY RESEARCH PROJECT FOR ENSA PROFESSORS; AND (D) CREATION OF SPECIAL PROJECT FOR ADVANCED STUDENTS WITH COST-SHARING ALONG LINES ESTABLISHED IN ENA PROJECT.

4. DEPTOFFS SUGGESTED ENSA OFFICIALS DISCUSS FOREGOING WITH CAO JOHNSON, STRESSING NEED TO SUBMIT DETAILS ANY FULBRIGHT REQUEST NOT LATER THAN OCTOBER. WE DID NOT SPELL OUT BUDGET LIMITATIONS BUT CAUTIONED THAT CU RESOURCES EXTREMELY LIMITED.

5. MEETING WITH AFR/CWR REPRESENTATIVES IVORIANS SAID THEY WISHED EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES FOR: (A) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND OTHER INPUTS, INCLUDING EQUIPMENT, FOR DEVELOPMENT IVORY COAST AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INFRA-STRUCTURE AND (B) AID ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING THE ENSA, PARTICULARLY FINANCING OF TRAINING AT U.S. UNIVERSITIES FOR FIFTH YEAR STUDENTS. BOSSO INDICATED HE HAD FOUND PLACEMENT FOR ELEVEN IVORIAN AGRICULTURE STUDENTS IN U.S. UNIVERSITIES, BUT DID NOT SPELL OUT TRIANGULAR CONTRACTUAL IDEA MENTIONED REFTEL, WHICH NOT YET RECEIVED. CWR REPRESENTATIVES BEGAN BY STATING FRANKLY THAT AID IS CONSTRAINED TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO IVORY COAST WITHIN REGIONAL FRAMEWORK. IN ADDITION THEY NOTED THAT EXISTING AND PLANNED ENTENTE REGIONAL PROJECTS VERY MUCH GEARED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO FOOD AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION AND MARKETING. THUS CURRENTLY ON-GOING AND PLANNED PROJECTS DO NOT ENCOMPASS NEEDS IDENTIFIED BY IVORIANS. IT WAS POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT THE AFRICA BUREAU WILL BE ASSESSING MAN-POWER DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR AFRICA AND FRAMING SELECTIVE REGIONAL RESPONSES FOR FRANCOPHONE WEST AFRICA. OBVIOUSLY AGRICULTURE WOULD BE A MAJOR FOCUS OF SUCH ASSISTANCE. ONCE SUCH A PROGRAM IS DEVELOPED FOR THE ENTENTE AREA, IT

IS HIGHLY PROBABLE THAT ENSA'S NEEDS COULD BE MET UNDER SUCH A PROJECT. IVORIANS POINTED OUT THAT STUDENT BODY OF ENSA PRESENTLY CONSISTS OF APPROXIMATELY ONE THIRD STUDENTS FROM OTHER FRANCOPHONE AFRICAN COUNTRIES. AFR/CWR REPRESENTATIVES STRESSED THAT DEVELOPMENT OF SUCH A PROJECT WOULD REQUIRE APPROXIMATELY A YEAR. WITH REGARD TO POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPMENT OF IVORY COAST AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE, CWR REPRESENTATIVES

REGRETFULLY ADVISED THAT A PROJECT DIRECTED TOWARD SUCH A NEED WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH CONGRESSIONAL MANDATE UNDER WHICH AID NOW OPERATING. THESE GUIDELINES STRESS EFFORTS INCREASE SMALLHOLDER PRODUCTION AND INCOME, AS OPPOSED DEVELOPING INFRASTRUCTURE, IN AGRICULTURE. IT WAS SUGGESTED, HOWEVER, THAT ADAPTIVE RESEARCH REQUIREMENTS OF PRODUCTION SUB-PROJECTS MIGHT BE ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING UNDER ENTENTE FOOD PRODUCTION AND AGRICULTURE CREDIT PROJECT. THE VISITORS WERE INFORMED THAT AN AID DESIGN TEAM WOULD BE IN IVORY COAST WITHIN NEXT TWO WEEKS TO BEGIN PREPARATION OF THE ENTENTE FOOD PRODUCTION AND AGRICULTURAL CREDIT PROJECT PAPER. THE VISITORS SUGGESTED THAT THE DESIGN TEAM CALL ON THEM. CWR REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRED THAT THIS WOULD BE USEFUL AND INDICATED THAT MESSRS BOSSO AND LEROUX MAY ALSO WISH TO PAY CALL ON REDSO DIRECTOR WEDEMAN. KISSINGER

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